

Minutes of the Advisory Task Force on Composition of Judicial Districts

October 21, 2019

The meeting was called to order on October 21, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. Central Time by Chairman Telford Forgety.

Following roll call, Bo Burk, J.B. Cox, Craig Fickling, and Kim Helper were present at the AOC office in Nashville. Chairman Forgety, Mark Davidson, John Fine, Russell Johnson, Jim Kyle, and Kim Nelson participated by phone. John Ryder was absent. Chairman Forgety also welcomed guests. Ceesha Lofton, Rachel Harmon, Michelle Consiglio-Young, Jennifer Williams and Ann Lynn Walker from the AOC were present in Nashville, as was Assistant Public Defender Ben Marsee from the 13th Judicial District. Rep. Mike Carter from the 29th District and Chancellor Tony Childress on behalf of the Trial Judges participated by phone. Chairman Carter expressed his appreciation for the work of the Task Force.

J.B. Cox moved to allow electronic participation by Task Force Members under Tenn. Code Ann. §8-44-108. The motion was seconded by Craig Fickling and carried upon a full roll call vote with ten ayes and one absent.

Minutes from the October 11, 2019 meeting were approved following a full roll call vote.

AOC staff updated Task Force members on their efforts to create a repository for General Sessions case data. The AOC is working on ways to obtain data from the “Big 4” counties, as well as municipal counties. Members wondered whether the AOC would be able to provide any meaningful data within the next month. Because of the continued data collection, any study would be hampered by guesstimates of some data.

The Task Force spent the rest of the meeting carefully reviewing and making suggestions for changes to the full draft report presented to members. Changes will continue to be considered at the next full meeting. Under new business, members discussed a preference for future meetings. After polling members, the next meeting was scheduled for October 31st, 2019 at 10 a.m.

With no further business, the Task Force meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kim Helper